direction human consumption unless the same is iodised under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules 1955 with effect from 17th May, 2006.

Yoga for disease cure

†2680. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI NARAYAN SINGH KESARI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey about the persons getting relief of the disease like diabetes, obesity and heart-ailments by adopting Yoga;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government have not conducted a survey about the persons getting relief of diseases like diabetes, obesity and heart ailments, etc. by applying Yoga so far.

(c) No specific proposal was received by the Government in this respect. Besides, this was not considered to be a high priority area under the Tenth Plan.

Banning of non-iodised salt

†2681. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of non-iodised salt in the country has been banned after May, 2006;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for imposing the ban;

(c) whether Government have gathered information regarding the total units engaged in the production of non-iodised salt in the country and the annual production of salt by them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) In order to prevent and control Iodine Deficiency Disorders restrictions have been imposed nationwide on the sale of edible common salt for direct human consumption unless the same is iodised under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules 1955 with effect from 17th May 2006. There is no ban on production of common salt and the same can be sold for Iodisation, Iron Fortification, Preservation, Industrial, Medicinal and animal use. As per Surveys conducted by the Directorate General of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research, State Health Directorates and Health Institutions out of 324 districts surveyed covering all the States/ UTs 263 districts are endemic *i.e.* where the prevalence of Iodine Deficiency Disorders is more than 10% . Thus no State/UT is free from Iodine Deficiency Disorders, therefore no part of the country is excluded from the above mentioned restrictions.

(c) and (d) During the year 2005, there were 3278 recognised and 9776 unrecognised Units engased in the production of common salt/non iodised salt in the country and record production of 199.23 lakh tones of salt was achieved during the year 2005.

Rail manufacturing

2682. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rail manufacturers in other countries are using Tank Degasser or RH Degasser or both for control of hydrogen in rail steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the process being used in India; and

(d) the specifications issued in this regard, the representations received and the action taken to review the specifications?